

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please amend the specification by amending the paragraphs starting on page 1, line 1, and ending on page 5, line 19, as follows:**

**DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'BAHAMAS'**

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

*Dahlia hortorum*(hybrid)

Variety denomination:

Bahamas

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as a *Dahlia-hortorum* (hybrid), and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Bahamas'. The new cultivar 'Bahamas' is a product of a planned breeding program and was selected by the Inventor, Jan Skøj~~d~~Skjold Knudsen, in Fyn, Denmark. The new cultivar 'Bahamas' originated from a cross made by the Inventor between the *Dahlia* cultivar designated 'Borneo' (unpatented) as the female parent and the *Dahlia* cultivar designated 'Lauren' (patented as 'DAPADRED' in U.S. Plant Patent No. PP11,671) as the male parent.

Asexual reproduction by cuttings of the new variety in Fyn, Denmark has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as described herein for 'Bahamas' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new variety reproduces true to type.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

'Bahamas' has not been tested under all available environmental conditions and the phenotype may vary with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature, light intensity, day length and humidity, without a change in genotype of the plant.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Bahamas'. The following characteristics in combination distinguish 'Bahamas' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Red flower ~~ray~~ floret color, RHS 53A;
2. Compact plant habit; and
3. Vigorous growth habit.

Side-by-side comparisons between the new *Dahlia* cultivar 'Bahamas' and the parental cultivars, 'Borneo' and 'Lauren', were conducted by the Inventor in Fyn, Denmark. Table 1 provides a comparison of plants of 'Bahamas' to plants of the parental cultivars:

Table 1

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>'Bahamas'</u>	<u>'Borneo'</u>	<u>'Lauren'</u>
<u>Ray floret color</u>	<u>Red, RHS 53A</u>	<u>Red-purple, RHS 70A</u>	<u>Red, RHS 59A</u>
<u>Leaf length</u>	<u>Up to 12 cm</u>	<u>7 – 8 cm</u>	<u>About 8.5 cm</u>

Of the commercial cultivars known to the Inventor, the most similar in comparison to the new *Dahlia* cultivar 'Bahamas' ~~is~~ is the female parental cultivar, *Dahlia* variety named 'Borneo' (unpatented). ~~Table 1 provides a comparison between the new cultivar and 'Borneo'.~~

~~Table 1~~

Characteristic	'Bahamas'	'Borneo'
Flower color	Red, RHS 53A	Red-purple, RHS 70A
Leaf length	Up to 12 cm	7—8 cm

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance and details of ~~flower~~inflorescence form color and structures of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which ~~more~~ accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Dahlia*.

The first photograph is a side view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bahamas' as grown in an 11 cm pot. The second photograph is a top view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bahamas. The third photograph is a close-up of the ~~flower~~inflorescence of 'Bahamas'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown under commercial conditions. Plants described were 12 to 14 weeks old, and were grown in a greenhouse in Fyn, Denmark with average day temperatures of 18 °C to 25 °C, and night temperature of 16 °C. All color references are measured against the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart. Colors are approximate as color depends on horticultural practices such as light level and treatment rate, among others, without however any variance in genotype.

PLANT:

Form: Globular, upright

Height: 17 cm

Spread: 20 cm

Natural flowering season: Summer to fall

Crop time: After rooting, about 10 - 12 weeks are required to produce  
finished flowering plants in 11 cm pots

Plant vigor: Vigorous

Root structure: Fibrous

Stem: Dark yellow-green, RHS 144; glabrous; diameter 10-12 mm

Lateral branches: 10 in quantity; 7-10 mm diameter; 10 cm in length  
(including flowerinflorescence); color: yellow-green,  
RHS 144

Internode length: 3 cm

Foliage:

Leaflets:

Quantity: 4 – 5 pairs per lateral branch

Arrangement: Opposite, decussate

Length: Up to 12 cm

Width: 5 – 6 cm

Shape: Elliptical, acuminate tip, decurrent base, crenate margin

Texture: Glabrous

Color: Young leaf upper side green RHS 136A; young leaf under side gray-green RHS 189C; mature leaf upper side RHS 134A; mature leaf under side RHS 189C

Venation: Upper side RHS 135C; under side RHS 144A

Petiole: 2 cm length, 5 – 8 mm diameter, color RHS 144A

FLOWERINFLORESCENCE:

Arrangement: Composite ~~flowers~~inflorescences in leaf axils

Inflorescence type: Capitulum

Inflorescence height: 2 – 3 cm

Inflorescence width: 6 cm

Flowering habit: Upright

Quantity of ~~flowers~~inflorescences: 2 per lateral stem

~~Flower~~Inflorescence longevity: 7 days on the plant

Bud:

Quantity: 2-3 per lateral stem (buds continue to develop when dead flowers are removed)

Shape: Globular

Size: Up to 2 cm in length, 1 cm diameter

Color: RHS 144C

PetalFlorets:

Shape: Disc, tubular to single floret (lanceolate to rounded tip); ray, single fused petal floret (oval and slightly involute to rounded tip)

Number: Disc, 5 fused; ray, 5 fused; with about 20 disk florets and 70 ray florets per capitulum (depending on light and temperature conditions)

Length: Disc 2 mm; ray 25 – 30 mm

Width: Disc 2 mm; ray 15 mm

Diameter: Disc 2-3 mm

Margin: Disk and ray, entire

Color: Disk, yellow, RHS 13A at the apical end fading into yellow-white, RHS 158C; ray, young upper side: red-purple, between RHS 72B to 72C, Mature upper side, red, RHS 53A with gray-purple, RHS 184C at base; mature under side, red-purple, RHS 61A to 61B

SepalsPhyllaries:

Appearance: 7-10 separate leaf-like units, subtending similar number of thin scale-like units

Quantity: Leaf-like, about 5 – 6; Scale-like, about 60

Shape: Leaf-like, oval with rounded tip and fused base; scale-like, oval with acute tip and fused base

Length: Leaf-like, 12 mm; scale-like, 25 mm

Width: Leaf-like, 6 mm; scale-like, 5 mm

Color: Leaf-like, Immature upper side, green, RHS 138A; immature under side, green, RHS 143D; mature upper side, green, RHS 137C; mature under side, gray-green, RHS 191B; scale-like, immature upper side, translucent, yellow-green, RHS 149B; immature under side, stripes of

green, RHS 143A; mature upper side, yellow-green, RHS 144C;  
mature under side, gray-green, RHS 143A

Calyx: 3 mm length, 14 mm diameter

Peduncle: 5 cm length, 3 mm diameter; strength: strong; color young, yellow-green, RHS  
144B, to old, gray-brown, RHS 199A

Reproductive organs:

Androecium:

Location: Disk florets only

Anthers: 5 mm in length, RHS 23B

Pollen: RHS 14A

Gynoecium:

Location: Disk and ray florets

Pistils: 1 per disc floret and 1 per ray floret~~flower~~, 15 mm length

Stigma: RHS 14A

Style: 1 cm length, RHS 1B

Ovary: RHS 150B

Temperature tolerance: High tolerance to 35 °C; low tolerance to 0 °C